

REMARKS

The allowance of claims 9 - 14 is acknowledged.


By the present amendment, claims 8 and 15 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof such that the rejection of claims 8 and 15 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishihara (US Pat. No. 5,978,404) is considered to be obviated, and a discussion of the cited art in relation to such claims is considered unnecessary.

Since only allowed claims 9 - 14 remain in this application, applicants submit that this application should now be in condition for allowance and issuance of a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 500.43301X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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